(b) if so, the reasons for its delay; and

(c) by when Government proposes to introduce the Bill in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes. The draft of the Bill on HIV/AIDS is, at present, under finalisation. However, no firm date can be indicated at this stage.

Acute shortage of vaccines

2088. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of vaccines in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to make available adequate quantity of vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of vaccines at present under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country. However, during the year 2008, there were some shortages of Diphtheria-Pertusis-Tetanus (DPT), Tetanus Toxoid (TT) and Diphtheria Tetanus (DT) for few months in some States due to non-fulfillment of supply commitments by manufacturers.

(c) To meet the requirement of vaccines, procurement is made from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as well as indigenous private sector units through a competitive bidding process.

Efficacy of pictorial warnings on cigarette packets

2089. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Mumbai-based health research organisation's recent survey report reveals that pictorial warnings on tobacco products like cigarette have proved ineffective with sales of cigarettes growing in the last two quarters;

(b) whether the habitual smokers deciphered the black and white X-ray picture of decaying lungs on cigarette packs as waterfalls between two mountains or hazy shadows of two people facing each other;

(c) whether illegal and smuggling sector has grown dramatically, not complying with pictorial warning rules apart from evading excise and VAT duties; and

(d) whether unlike India, western countries where graphic health warnings are carried on cigarettes have recorded decline on the number of tobacco users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) A survey was conducted by Healis Seksaria Institute of Public Health, Mumbai, and published in October, 2009 concluded that the pictorial warning do not serve desired purpose since they are not properly understood.

(c) There is no such evidence available with this Ministry.